



In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 1A is an exploded view of the upper parts of the present drop-fill assembly 10 according to the present invention and a pressing fixture assembly 12.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 23 has been amended as follows:

Then, the ~~remaining parts of the~~ drop-fill assembly is ~~are~~ supported on the ~~platform~~ pressing fixture assembly 12 with the pegs 48, 50 received in the respective openings 190, 192. This serves to position the various blocks 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 and the associated sifting screen pairs aligned with the current collectors. The remaining one-half of the required active material for the electrode build is loaded into the funnels 108, 110 and allowed to fall through the blocks and sifting screens to cover the other side of the current collectors with a uniform thickness layer having a generally even particle size distribution.

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3 has been amended as follows:

While not shown in the drawings, after the active material is filled onto the opposite sides of the current collectors as uniform thickness layers, the drop fill assembly 10 ~~tower of blocks 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22~~ is removed from the platform pressing fixture assembly 12. Plugs 142 and 144 are inserted into the respective openings 134, 136, and the pressing fixture assembly 12 is moved to a press. The press subjects the active material to a force of about one ton to about 150 tons to press contact the active material to the opposite sides of the current collectors. For example, SVO is typically pressed at a force of about 16 to 150 tons while CF_x is pressed at about one to 10 tons. That way, the pressing force serves to lock the active material together through the openings in the intermediate current collectors.